

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAO PA 00581 012007Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DOE-11 SOE-02 MCE-00 /093 W

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FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8321

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, BR

SUBJ: VAR-PALMARES ARMS CACHE SEIZED

1. SECOND ARMY COMMANDER GENERAL DILERMANDO GOMES MONTEIRO ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 13 THE DISCOVERY OF STASHED WEAPONS BELONGING TO VAR-PALMARES, THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION ACTIVE FROM ABOUT 1968 TO 1972 UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF CAPTAIN LAMARCA. THE WEAPONS, BURIED IN A VACANT LOT IN AN OUTLYING SUBURB OF SAO PAULO, CONSISTED OF 19 WEAPONS, 36 BOXES OF AMMUNITION AND VARIOUS CARTRIDGES. DILERMANDO ANNOUNCED THE DISCOVERY AND SUBSEQUENT SEIZURE OF THE WEAPONS CALMLY AND OPENLY. HE NOTED THAT DR. ROBERTO ZATZ, ACCUSED OF PROVIDING MEDICAL SERVICES TO VAR-PALMARES, HAD BEEN PICKED UP FOR QUESTIONING THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND RELEASED THAT DAY. DAVID GONGORA JUNIOR, ALSO ACCUSED OF BELONGING TO VAR-PALMARES, HAD BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE. THE PRESS REPORTED THAT ADILSON FERREIRA DA SILVA, REPORTEDLY A LEADER OF THE ORGANIZATION, AND AMANDIO DOS SANTOS, WERE ALSO UNDER ARREST.

2. THE SECOND ARMY NOTE CHARACTERIZES THE OPERATION AS ONE OF "NEUTRALIZING REMAINING POCKETS OF OLD SUBVERSIVE GROUPS."

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PAGE 02 SAO PA 00581 012007Z

IT REMINDS THE POPULATION THAT THE QUANTITY OF WEAPONS FOUND AND THEIR CAREFUL WRAPPINGS MAKES ONE CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MIGHT BE USED ANY TIME THE SECURITY SERVICES RELAX THEIR VIGILANCE. BUT THE PEOPLE ARE ASSURED THAT THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN AND THAT ALL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS WILL BE FOLLOWED IN HANDLING PRISONERS.

3. COMMENT: A SECOND ARMY COLONEL WHO ATTENDED THE BRIEFING ON THE WEAPONS SEIZURE BUT DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE OPERATION TOLD CONGEN OFF THAT SEIZURE WAS TREATED WITHIN THE SECOND ARMY AS A MOPPING-UP OPERATION, NOT AS DEALING WITH SERIOUS THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY. DILERMANDO RECEIVED PRAISE FOR THE OPN WA HE HANDLED THE OPERATION. HOWEVER, THERE HAD BEEN SOME QUESTIONING ON THE LEFT ABOUT WHETHER THE ARMY'S TIMING WAS MOTIVATED A DESIRE TO SEND A MESSAGE THAT IT WAS STILL SEARCHING OUT SUBVERSIVE THREATS TO THE REGIME. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE COMMENTATOR ALLEGED THAT THE FACT THA THE WEAPONS WERE WRAPPED IN NEWSPAPERS OF LAST NOVEMBER RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT WHERE THE ARMS WERE BEFORE THIS TIME.
CHAPIN

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